

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LATINO POLITICAL CLOUT STRENGTHENS AS THE CAUCUS CONTINUES TO GROW AND GAIN KEY POSITIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Sacramento, CA- A new class of Latino Caucus Members were sworn in today at the State Capitol increasing the Caucus' numbers and influence in the State Legislature. The new crop of Legislators bring a wide array of perspectives and experience to Sacramento.

"This is an exciting day for us as a Caucus," said Majority Floor Leader Marco Antonio Firebaugh, Chair of the Latino Caucus. "Our Caucus is ready to work on the complex issues that affect California's working families. Our immediate priority is to address our looming budget shortfall and ensure that the budget is not balanced on the backs of our most vulnerable communities, our children and seniors."

Latino Caucus Members hold key positions in both houses of the Legislature:

In the Assembly, in addition to holding the Majority Floor Leader position (Marco Firebaugh), Latino Caucus Members chair the Budget (Jenny Oropeza), Business and Professions (Lou Correa), Health (Dario Frommer), Insurance (Juan Vargas), Local Government (Simon Salinas), Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security (Gloria Negrete-McLeod), Revenue and Taxation (Ed Chavez), and Utilities and Commerce (Sarah Reyes) Committees.

In the Senate, Latino Caucus Members hold the Democratic Caucus Chair position (Gloria Romero), and chair the Business and Professions (Liz Figueroa), Health (Deborah Ortiz), Judiciary (Martha Escutia), Labor and Industrial Relations (Richard Alarcon), Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security (Nell Soto) Committees.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Firebaugh. "Our Caucus will meet in January to formulate our annual policy agenda and determine the direction of our Caucus for this upcoming Legislative year. I welcome the new Members of our Caucus and look forward to working with them to ensure our continued success."

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The new Latino Caucus Members include:

Gilbert Cedillo
Senator, 22nd District

Ron Calderon
Assembly Member, 58th District

Denise Moreno Ducheny
Senator, 40th District

Cindy Montañez
Assembly Member, 39th District

Dean Florez
Senator, 16th District

Fabian Nuñez
Assembly Member, 46th District

Rudy Bermudez
Assembly Member, 56th District

Nicole Parra
Assembly Member, 30th District

Since its inception in 1973 with five Assembly Members, the Caucus has experienced tremendous growth. During the 2002 election cycle the Caucus grew from 22 to 24 Members. The Members of the Caucus represent the diverse geographical regions throughout the State.

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